

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-4 remain pending in the application. By the foregoing amendment claim 1 is amended.

A personal interview was held on March 9, 2006 between Examiner Jason Prone and Applicant's representative. A summary of the interview is provided below.

During the personal interview, Applicant's representative and Examiner Prone discussed Applicants' disclosure of a sensor 11 on the motor 5 adapted to generate an output signal to the control unit 10 at a predetermined position of a shaft 4 to immediately stop the motor 5 (page 3, lines 20-24; Fig. 1). In response to the discussion with the Examiner, Applicants amend claim 1 as presented herein.

In paragraph 2, page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1, 3 and 4 are rejected as being anticipated by US Patent 4,088,899 (Miller et al.). In paragraph 4, page 3 of the final Office Action, claim 2 is rejected as being unpatentable over the Miller et al. patent in view of US Patent 5,832,801 (Bando). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As discussed during the personal interview, Applicants have disclosed an arrangement for cutting an optical fiber, comprising a fiber cutter, wherein a motor is provided to operate the fiber cutter, the motor being controlled by a control unit to start a cutting movement in response to a start signal to be generated when the fiber is located in the fiber cutter (e.g., page 2, lines 27-30). A detector connected to the control unit is adapted to detect snap off of the fiber and in response thereto causes the control unit to generate a stop signal to stop the cutting movement (e.g., page 3, lines 5-18). The cutting movement is automatically stopped at a predetermined

position of the fiber cutter if fiber snap off is not detected (e.g., page 3, lines 20-24).

The intent is to automatically stop the cutting movement at a predetermined position if no fiber snap off is detected (e.g., page 1, lines 25 and 26).

The Miller et al. patent does not teach or suggest an arrangement for cutting an optical fiber including, among other claimed features, a control unit which starts a cutting movement in response to a start signal to be generated when the fiber is located in the fiber cutter and a detector connected to the control unit to detect snap off of the fiber and cause the control unit to generate a stop signal to stop the cutting movement, the cutting movement being automatically stopped at a predetermined position of the fiber cutter if fiber snap off is not detected upon cutting, as recited in claim 1. In contrast, the Miller et al. patent is directed to a method for controlling an automatic machine tool in which a ribbon steel 30 is fed to be punched or bent by the pressing of die shoes 20 and 28 (col. 3, lines 10-18).

The Miller et al. patent does not teach or suggest 1) cutting an optical fiber, 2) a detector adapted to detect snap off of a fiber, and 3) automatically stopping the cutting movement at a predetermined position of the fiber cutter if fiber snap off is not detected upon cutting. The Miller et al. patent does not teach or suggest the cutting movement being automatically stopped if fiber snap off is not detected upon cutting.

The Bando patent does not cure the deficiencies of the Miller et al. patent. As discussed, the Bando patent does not teach a linear motor as recited in claim 2, and does not teach an arrangement for cutting an optical fiber having the aforementioned features as recited in claim 1.

As such, Applicants' independent claim 1 is allowable. The remaining claims variously depend from the independent claims and recite additional advantageous

features which further distinguish over the document relied upon by the Examiner.

As such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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